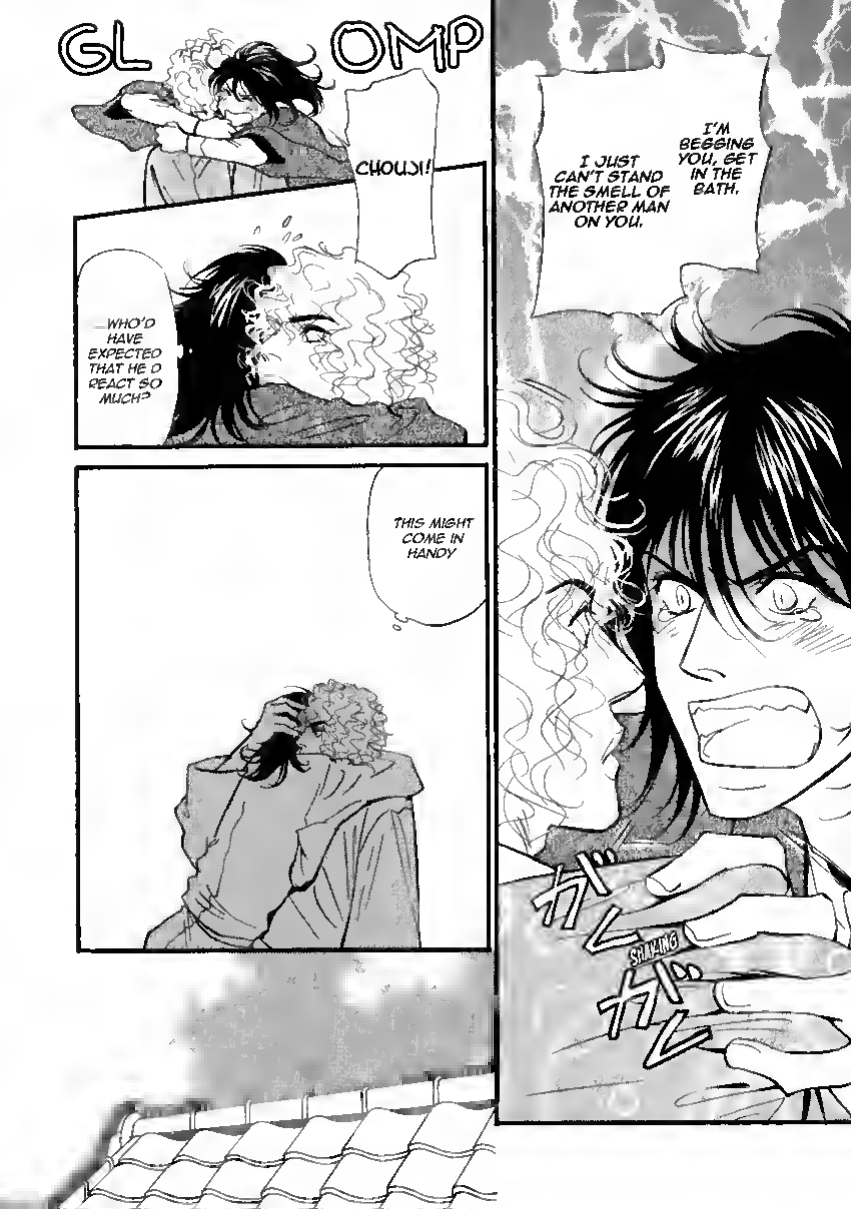
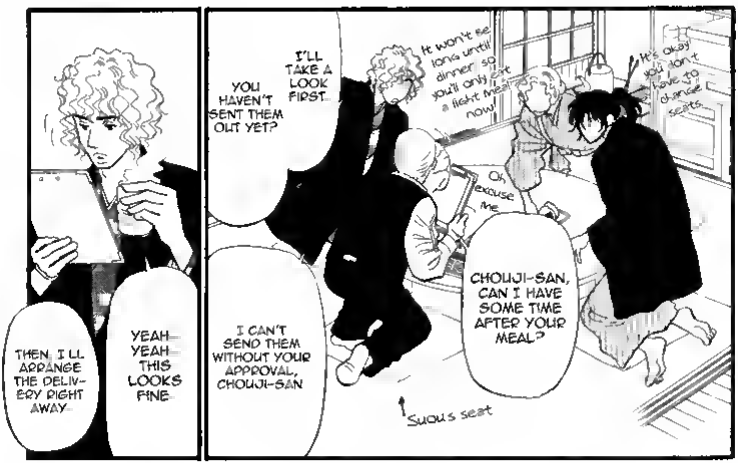
CHAPTER 7

STING!
AH... EH
CHOUJI!
CAN'T YOU WALK?
DID HE MAKE YOU SWING YOUR HIPS SO MUCH!?
SHUT.. UP
IT'S NOTHING!
CHOUJI!
DON'T TOUCH ME
DON'T TOUCH ME!

HUG
I'M SORRY, CHOUJI!
IT'S ALL BECAUSE YOUR BIG BROTHER IS SO USELESS THAT YOU HAD TO GO THROUGH SOMETHING LIKE THIS...!
trickle
trickle
trickle
I JUST DID THAT ON MY OWN
THERE'S NOTHING YOU SHOULD APOLOGIZE FOR
HOW SHOULD I BREAK HIM THE NEWS ABOUT THE MATTER WITH SANKIROU...?
SOONER OR LATER HE'LL ALSO FIND OUT THAT MY PARTNER WAS IWAGO
COME ON, LET'S GO HAVE LUNCH
YOU GO AND EAT FIRST, CHOUJI! IN THE MEANTIME, YOUR BIG BROTHER WILL HEAT THE BATH
IN THAT CASE, YOU GO FIRST
I WIPED MYSELF QUICKLY WITH A WET TOWEL, SO I'M ALRIGHT
THEN I'LL DO THE SAME


GL OMP
CHOUJI!
...WHO'D HAVE EXPECTED THAT HE'D REACT SO MUCH?
THIS MIGHT COME IN HANDY
I'M BEGGING YOU, GET IN THE BATH.
I JUST CAN'T STAND THE SMELL OF ANOTHER MAN ON YOU.
SHAKING

THE BATH WATER IS ABOUT HALF-HEATED
OH, YOU'RE AWAKE?


YOU HAVEN'T SENT THEM OUT YET?
I'LL TAKE A LOOK FIRST
It won't be long until dinner so you'll only get a light meal now!
It's okay you don't have to change seats
Oh, excuse me
CHOUJI-SAN, CAN I HAVE SOME TIME AFTER YOUR MEAL?
THEN, I'LL ARRANGE THE DELIVERY RIGHT AWAY
YEAH YEAH THIS LOOKS FINE
I CAN'T SEND THEM WITHOUT YOUR APPROVAL, CHOUJI-SAN
Suou's seat

YOSHI-SAN, PLEASE HOLD ON A SECOND
OH YEAH, THAT WAS JUST A VERBAL AGREEMENT WITH IWABO. SO I HAVE TO CONFIRM IF THE DEAL WAS REALLY APPROVED
"WE'LL BUY 200 YEN WORTH OF YOUR STORE'S MERCHANDISE TO BE USED AS LOUNGEWEAR BY THE CLIENTS HERE IN SANKIROU
I'LL TALK IT OVER WITH THE BOSS"

WE HAVE A HUGE ORDER FROM A BROTHEL IT'S WORTH 200 YEN!
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
TO WHAT DEGREE DOES THE OWNER OF A BROTHEL LISTEN TO THE PROPOSALS OF A MERE BODYGUARD?
OPERATOR? CONNECT ME TO SANKIROU IN YOSHIWARA PLEASE. THE TELEPHONE NUMBER IS...
EXCUSE ME, SUOU-SAN
SUOU-SAN,
WELL THERE'S NO WAY THEY WON'T TELL HIM. SUOU IS THE MANAGER OF THE SHOP
THIS IS BAD, MA'AM
whisper whisper
mumble mumble

I wonder if I can distract him a little with this?
MR. SOLDIER BROUGHT THIS

IT'S MY FEE
AH...
SO OLD MAN FUJIISAWA PAID IT PROPERLY, EVEN THOUGH HE WAS OBSTRUCTED IN THE END?
HE TOOK IT.
WHAT ABOUT HIS COAT, KAYO-CHAN?
I HEAR HE HAS QUITE A LOT OF INFLUENCE IN THE ARMY CIRCLES, SO I SHOULD THANK HIM FOR THE SAKE OF THE SECOND LIEUTENANT'S WELL BEING TOO
BUT NOBODY WOULD BE AMUSED IF THEIR PARTNER WAS TAKEN AWAY FROM THEM BY ANOTHER MAN, IN FRONT OF THEIR EYES
THAT OLD COOT ISN'T MY OFFICIAL PATRON
I SEE
I- I DID, MORE OR LESS
BETTER STAY SILENT ABOUT THE FACT THAT I JUST DECIDED TO PLEAD WITH HIM TO COME BY AGAIN—
DID YOU TELL HIM NOT TO COME HERE ANYMORE?

THE SECOND LIEUTENANT
IS JUST A BIT MY TYPE, LOOKS-WISE,
BUT WE WEREN'T MEANT TO BE
IWASO DID KEEP HIS END OF THE DEAL
AI, I'LL TAKE THE BATH PREPARATION FROM HERE. SO GO HELP YOSHI-SAN
OH, OKAY.
I'LL GO SHOPPING WHILE THERE'S STILL LIGHT OUTSIDE
OH, WAIT. I'LL GO WITH YOU.
BUT I'LL BE RIGHT BACK..!

YEAH?
BIG BROTHER...
twitch
I LOVE YOU, BIG BROTHER

I LOVE YOU.

I SLEPT WITH ANOTHER MAN BECAUSE OF THE CIRCUM-STANCES...
BUT MY FEELINGS HAVEN'T CHANGED
I KNOW.
DON'T DO IT AGAIN
I HAVE TO GO A FEW MORE TIMES
I HAVE TO PAY THE LOAN BACK IN INSTALL-MENTS
HOW MANY MORE TIMES!? NO, WITH WHOM!?
YOUR PARTNER WAS THAT SCUMBAG, RIGHT?
I KNOW THE SITUATION, MORE OR LESS!!

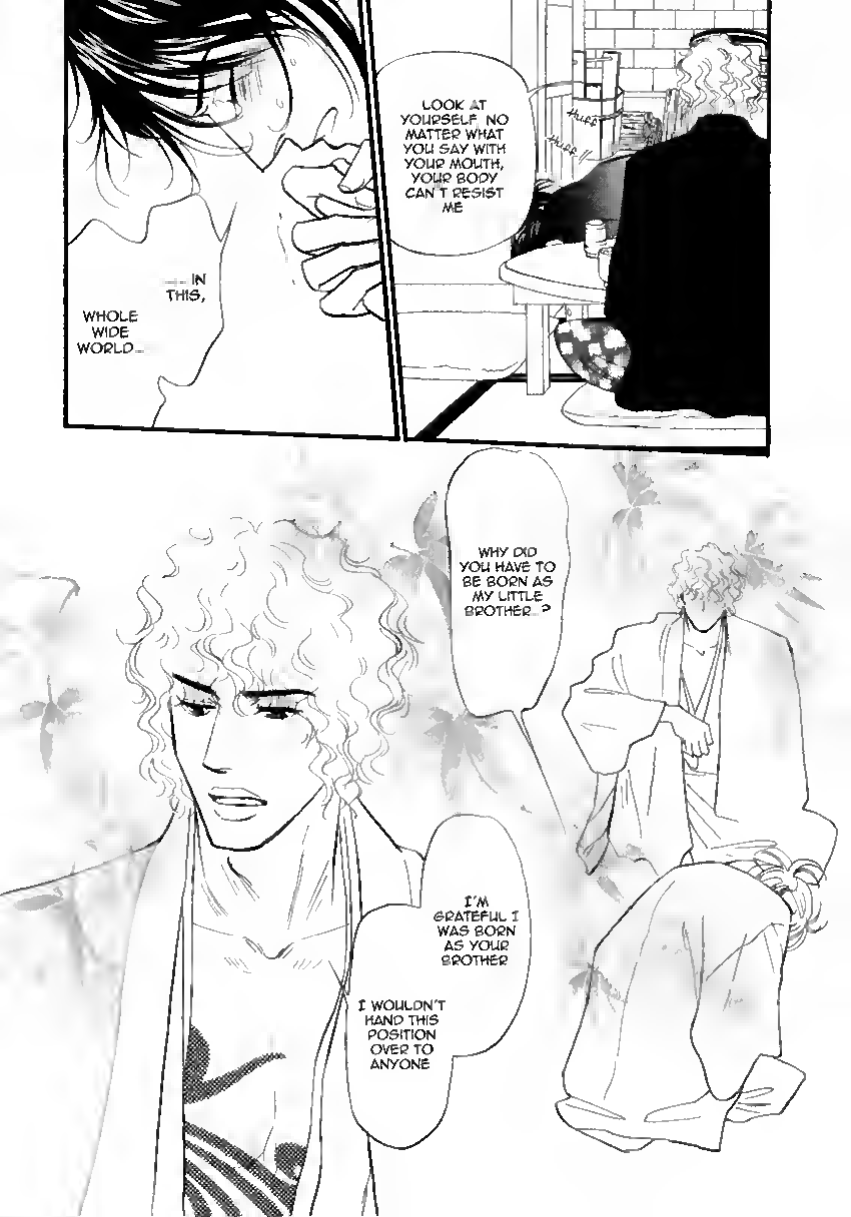
THERE'S NO PROBLEM IN THAT CASE, RIGHT?
THEY AREN'T FOR THE PROSTITUTES. THEY'RE FOR THE CLIENTS! THEY WILL USE THEM AS LOUNGEWEAR FOR THE MALE CLIENTS
I TOLD YOU, DON'T LET THE GIRLS WEAR THEM-
DON'T SAY THAT. WE EVEN SOLD 200 YEN WORTH OF OUR STOCK
IF YOU DON'T WANT ME TO SELL MY BODY, CAN'T YOU COMPROMISE JUST A LITTLE BIT?
I'VE TOLD YOU THOUSANDS OF TIMES
THAT I WANT TO ALLOW YOU DESIGNING FREEDOM MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE,
BUT I CAN'T DO THAT IF WE DON'T SELL IN THE FIRST PLACE!
YOU CAN TAKE RISKS ONCE THE SHOP HAS BEEN SECURELY ESTABLISHED,
OKAY?
WHAT?
I HAVE JUST ONE CONDITION
...I GOT IT...
BUT

I WILL SELL MYSELF INSTEAD-
JUST TRY TO DO THAT! I WILL BURN YOSHIWARA TO THE GROUND!!
CHOUJI!!
SLAM!
ACTUALLY, I WON'T DO THAT
RATHER, I'LL SLEEP WITH TAKAJI TOO.
.....I-
SAME GOES FOR THAT SAR-URIAN SOLDIER
AND WHILE WE'RE AT IT, DON'T TRY TO HOOK UP WITH YOUR EX-LOVERS, THIS TIME.
THEN, DON'T YOU DARE DO IT EITHER, BIG BROTHER.

HAH,
IT'S A BIT LATE FOR THAT NOW...
pull
I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO SAY
THAT YOU'VE FORGOTTEN!
OUR SOULS WILL BE SULLIED...
FOR THE TIME BEING, THIS TRICK WILL COME IN HANDY.
ALRIGHT HIS RESISTANCE IS WAY WEAKER THAN USUAL
munch, munch
SO I TOLD YOU, I WILL MAKE LOVE TO YOU
CAN'T GO ON LIVING WITHOUT GETTING DONE BY MEN
WHY NOT? SINCE WE'RE BOTH MEN, WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT GIVING BIRTH TO INBRED CHILDREN
WE CAN'T DO THAT, CHOUJI...
...WE — WE CAN'T

Lick
JOLT!
slurp

ST-...
STOP.....
NO-
CHOU-...!


LOOK AT YOURSELF. NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY WITH YOUR MOUTH, YOUR BODY CAN'T RESIST ME
...IN THIS, WHOLE WIDE WORLD...
WHY DID YOU HAVE TO BE BORN AS MY LITTLE BROTHER...?
I'M GRATEFUL I WAS BORN AS YOUR BROTHER
I WOULDN'T HAND THIS POSITION OVER TO ANYONE

AS LONG AS I HAVE YOU, I DON'T NEED ANYTHING AND ANYONE ELSE
YES, CHOUJI.
I LOVE YOU TOO
I YEARN FOR YOU THE MOST
HOWEVER,
IT'S NO GOOD I CAN'T LAY MY HANDS ON A SIBLING
I UNDERSTAND THAT
BUT STILL, YOU'RE SO DEAR TO ME
BUT
IT'S HOPELESS.
I WAS TURNED DOWN
I WISH
THE SECOND LIEUTENANT FELL IN LOVE WITH ME
IN THAT CASE, I MIGHT HAVE ALSO BEEN ABLE TO BREAK OUT OF THIS KARMA.

FIVE DAYS LATER
THIS IS IWAGO FROM SANKIROU IS CHOUJI-SAN THERE?
Y-YES, BUT HE'S TAKING A BATH RIGHT NOW-
GET HIM OUT
SHIT
SPLASH
HEY, IT'S BEEN A WHILE
HOW ARE YOU? HAS THE PAIN IN YOUR BACKSIDE DISAPPEARED?
GET STRAIGHT TO THE POINT WHAT TIME SHOULD I COME?

BRING ME A NEW JUBAN, AND SINCE I'LL BE GOING OUT A HOUMONGI!
*see notes
AT 10
UNDER-STOOD.
WASH YOURSELF REEEEALLY WELL
SPLASH!
THE PLAN WORKED
HOWEVER I'M GRATEFUL FOR THE INCREASE IN OUR CLIENTELE
I HAVE TO KEEP MY END OF THE DEAL TOO..

I'LL TALK TO HIM ABOUT IT WHEN I GO THERE-
MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE SOME WOOLEN WINTER CLOTHING CUSTOM MADE IN IWA'S SIZE AND HAVE HIM WEAR IT?
..NO MATTER WHAT I MIGHT SAY, THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT HE'S GOOD AS A POSTER BOY. ISN'T THERE A WAY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THAT?
creak
creak
WHERE'S BIG BROTHER? AT THE ATELIER?
Here.
BUT HE USED HIS AUTHORITY AS THE ELDEST SON AND SHOOK US OFF
WE DID
SHIT!
SLIDE
DAMN IT!
SHIT, YOU SHOULD HAVE STOPPED HIM!!

HM?
THAT'S SUOU... YOU CAN TELL IT'S HIM IMMEDIATELY.
WHERE IS HE GOING? DON'T TELL ME IT'S THE SAME THING LAST TIME...
I'M SORRY BUT GO HOME AHEAD OF

HEY IWA, YOU HAVE A VISITOR
SOMEONE FROM "SUOH".
I told him to come at 10
WHAT? HE'S EARLY
SORRY BUT I HAVE TO SLIP OUT FROM WORK FOR A SHORT WHILE.
GOT IT.
HM?
IF HE'S JUST GOING TO FOOL AROUND WITH WOMEN... THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY-
HE CAME TO SANKIROU... WELL, HE'S A MAN TOO... MAYBE HE SWINGS BOTH WAYS?

Hahaman
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I CAME HERE INSTEAD OF MY LITTLE BROTHER
HE CAUGHT A COLD BECAUSE OF YOUR UNREASONABLE DEMANDS
OH? IF IT ISN'T THE ELDER BROTHER WHO GRACED ME WITH HIS PRESENCE
I'M SORRY TO HEAR THAT.
WELL, AS LONG AS YOU KEEP YOUR END OF THE DEAL, I'M FINE WITH EITHER OF YOU.
WHAT IS HE DOING... AH, HEY! DON'T GET YOUR FACE SO CLOSE!

A CURLY-HAIRED BULLET MIGHT BURST IN HERE AFTERWARDS. IT'S OKAY, SO JUST LET HIM IN.
Whisper Whisper
WHAT?
JUST DO IT. TELL IT TO EVERYONE ELSE TOO
WHAT SHOULD I DO? I NEED SOME MONEY AT HAND JUST TO GET IN..
NO, BUT SHOULD I GO BACK TO THE BOARDING HOUSE TO GET SOME?
fidget fidget
COME IN
IS HE PLANNING TO SELL HIMSELF TO IWAGO TOO!? IS HE SO HARD-PRESSED FOR MONEY..?
NO, MAYBE HE'S LOOKING FOR A REPLACEMENT AFTER I REJECTED HIM...
I'LL GO GET SOME MONEY!
CRAP, I DON'T HAVE TOO MUCH CASH AT HOME EITHER...
SLIDE
BCZZD!
WHOA!

CAREFUL, YOU DUMBASS!!
AH, HEY, AREN'T YOU-!?
PISS OFF! I'M IN A HURRY HERE!

HEEH, THAT MAKES ME GLAD
A RUMOUR THAT YOUR SHOP'S CLOTHES LIFT ONE'S SPIRITS HAS BEEN GOING AROUND
WE TOLD THE GIRLS NOT TO WEAR THEM, ACCORDING TO YOUR ORDERS
I WANT TO WEAR THEM TOO, BUT THEY'RE TOO SHORT FOR ME
...SUGU?
HEY SEW SOME MORE KIMONO FOR ME
I'LL PAY YOU
Slide
DIDN'T YOU USE HARD CASH TO FORCIBLY BUY A UNIQUE PIECE THAT WASN'T FOR SALE?
IF I WEAR JUST THAT ALL THE TIME, IT'LL GET WORN OUT.

Tsk
CHOUJI!
UH-OH SOMEONE'S HERE TO PICK YOU UP, BIG BROTHER
Haa
Haa
Haa
BIG BROTHER!
IWA! WHERE DID YOU GO!?
BIG BROTHER!!
DASH
..... !!
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
Huff Huff
WHOA. STOP RIGHT THERE, BRO!

GULP
Tsk
SO WE HAVE A FLOOD OF CLIENTS TONIGHT?
COME ON, YOU'RE BOTHERING THE OTHER CLIENTS, SO BE QUIET
Haa
Haa
I HAVE NO INTENTION TO STIR UP A FUSS I ONLY CAME TO PICK SUOU UP BECAUSE I WAS ASKED BY HIS MOTHER
Huff
Huff
GET OUT
OF MY WAY!
WHAT THE HECK MA? YOU DID IT AGAIN?
Haa
Haa
Huff
THIS IS MY JOB, YOU KNOW

HERE...
GET ME THAT JUG OVER THERE
HAA
HN?
BRING ME SOME WATER PLEASE
GR
AB
SL
AM
WHOA
TAKE HIM HOME!
CRASH
KYAAAA!
CAREFUL!

CHOUJI!
CHOUJI!
close!

Iro Otoko

色おとこ

by Toribito Hiromi

Chapter 7

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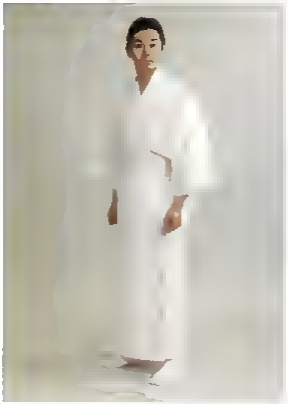
NOTES

Page 59: A *juban* is a kimono-like garment made of lighter fabric and worn under the actual kimono. A *houmongi* is a semi-formal kimono for women. The characteristic of a houmongi is that it has connected patterns over the obi and below, on the area of the skirt. Normally, kimono for men don't have patterns and designs on them, so houmongi are worn solely by women. But since the men in Iro Otoko wear some pretty flashy kimono too, there can be houmongi for men in this manga too.



<-- A juban

A houmongi->